

# Supermembrane limit of Yang-Mills theory

Olaf Lechtenfeld and Alexander D. Popov

*Institut für Theoretische Physik and Riemann Center for Geometry and Physics  
Leibniz Universität Hannover  
Appelstraße 2, 30167 Hannover, Germany*

Email: lechtenf@itp.uni-hannover.de, popov@itp.uni-hannover.de

## Abstract

We consider Yang-Mills theory with  $N=1$  super translation group in eleven auxiliary dimensions as the structure group. The gauge theory is defined on a direct product manifold  $\Sigma_3 \times S^1$ , where  $\Sigma_3$  is a three-dimensional Lorentzian manifold and  $S^1$  is a circle. We show that in the infrared limit, when the metric on  $S^1$  is scaled down, the Yang-Mills action supplemented by a Wess-Zumino-type term reduces to the action of an M2-brane.

**1. Introduction and summary.** The theory of membranes and supermembranes has been developed for a long time [1]-[9].<sup>1</sup> Supermembranes are basic objects (M2-branes) of M-theory, which are needed for constructing an effective theory of multi-M2-branes [9]. In this paper we show that the action of supermembranes moving in  $d=11$  flat  $N=1$  extended superspace can be obtained from a Yang-Mills action functional on  $\Sigma_3 \times S^1$  amended by a Wess-Zumino-type term when  $S^1$  shrinks to a point.

Our construction is based on the adiabatic approach to differential equations (introducing “slow” and “fast” variables) which for a direct product manifold<sup>2</sup>  $Z = X \times Y$  is equivalent to the introduction of a metric  $g_X + \varepsilon^2 g_Y$  with a real parameter  $\varepsilon \in [0, \infty)$  and a consideration of the limit  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$  [10, 11].<sup>3</sup> The adiabatic limit method has been applied to the description of the scattering of monopoles (i.e. constructing time-dependent solutions of the Yang-Mills-Higgs model), and it has been shown that in the limit  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$  the scattering of monopoles is parametrized by geodesic motion on the moduli space  $\mathcal{M}_n$  of  $n$ -monopoles [15, 16]. In other words, the Yang-Mills-Higgs system on  $\mathbb{R}^{3,1} = \mathbb{R}^{0,1} \times \mathbb{R}^{3,0}$  for “slow time” reduce to a sigma model on  $\mathbb{R}^{0,1}$  (time axis) with  $\mathcal{M}_n$  as the target space.

In four dimensions, when  $\dim Z=4$ , one has  $\dim X=1, 2$  or  $3$  and  $\dim Y=3, 2$  or  $1$ , respectively. In [10] the adiabatic method was applied to the Yang-Mills instanton equations on a direct product  $X \times Y$  of two Riemann surfaces, and it was shown that instanton solutions on  $X \times Y$  are in a *one-to-one correspondence* with holomorphic maps from  $X$  into the moduli space  $\mathcal{M}$  of *flat connections* on  $Y$ . In this case the Yang-Mills action reduces to the action of a sigma model on  $X$  while  $Y$  shrinks to a point. The sigma-model target space is  $\mathcal{M}$ , and holomorphic maps  $X \rightarrow \mathcal{M}$  are the sigma-model instantons. The same result for the Lorentzian signature with  $X = \mathbb{R}^{1,1}$  and  $Y = T^2$  (two-torus) was derived in [12]: Yang-Mills theory on  $\mathbb{R}^{1,1} \times T^2$  in the infrared limit  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$  (the size of  $T^2$  tends to zero) reduces to a sigma model on  $\mathbb{R}^{1,1}$  whose target space is the moduli space of flat connections on  $T^2$ . In [13, 14] the same approach was applied to Yang-Mills theory<sup>4</sup> on  $\mathbb{R}^{2,1} \times S^1$ . It was shown that Yang-Mills theory on  $\mathbb{R}^{2,1} \times S^1$  reduces to a sigma model on  $\mathbb{R}^{2,1}$  whose target space is the space of vacua that arise in the compactification on  $S^1$ . Finally, the adiabatic approach is natural and especially helpful in studying Yang-Mills instantons in more than four dimensions as it was shown in [11, 17] (see also [18] and references therein).

To sum up, Yang-Mills theory on a manifold  $X \times Y$  with metric  $g_X + \varepsilon^2 g_Y$  flows in the infrared limit  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$  to a sigma model on  $X$  whose target space is the moduli space  $\mathcal{M}$  of flat connections on  $Y$  when  $\dim Y \leq 2$ . In our short paper we reverse this logic. For a given sigma model on  $X$  we construct a Yang-Mills model on  $X \times Y$  such that in the infrared limit  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$  one gets back the initial sigma model. In [19, 20] this algorithm was carried out for the bosonic string and for the Green-Schwarz superstring in a  $d=10$  Minkowski background. Here we apply this idea to the sigma model describing a supermembrane in a  $d=11$  Minkowski background [5, 7] and introduce a Yang-Mills model on  $\Sigma_3 \times S^1$  whose low-energy limit recovers the supermembrane action on  $\Sigma_3$ .

---

<sup>1</sup>See [8, 9] for historical reviews and more references.

<sup>2</sup>The direct product structure is not necessary for the application of the adiabatic method. In general, it is enough if there is a fibration  $Z \rightarrow X$  or if  $X$  is a calibrated submanifold of  $Z$ .

<sup>3</sup>In the physics literature this limit is called infrared or low-energy limit (see e.g. [12, 13, 14]).

<sup>4</sup>In fact, in [12]-[14] the authors considered  $\mathcal{N}=4$  and  $\mathcal{N}=2$  super-Yang-Mills theories but the restriction to the pure Yang-Mills subsector does not change the picture.

**2. Lie supergroup  $G$ .** We consider Yang-Mills theory on a direct product manifold  $M^4 = \Sigma_3 \times S^1$ , where  $\Sigma_3$  is a three-dimensional Lorentzian manifold with local coordinates  $x^a$ ,  $a, b, \dots = 0, 1, 2$ , and a metric tensor  $g_{\Sigma_3} = (g_{ab})$ , and on the circle  $S^1$  of unit radius parametrized by  $x^3 \in [0, 2\pi]$  we choose the metric  $g_{S^1} = (g_{33})$  with  $g_{33} = 1$ . Then  $(x^\mu) = (x^a, x^3)$  are local coordinates on  $M^4$  with the metric tensor  $(g_{\mu\nu}) = (g_{ab}, g_{33})$ ,  $\mu, \nu, \dots = 0, \dots, 3$ . Having in mind open membranes, we assume that  $\Sigma_3$  has a Lorentzian boundary  $\Sigma_2 = \partial\Sigma_3$ . For closed membranes,  $\Sigma_2$  is the empty set.

As the Yang-Mills structure group on  $M^4$  we consider the coset  $G = \text{SUSY}(N=1)/\text{SO}(10,1)$  (cf. [7]), where  $\text{SUSY}(N=1)$  is the super Poincaré group in  $d=11$  dimensions. The coset  $G$  is the super translation group in  $d=11$  auxiliary dimensions. Its generators span the Lie superalgebra  $\mathfrak{g} = \text{Lie } G$ ,

$$\{\xi_A, \xi_B\} = (\gamma^\alpha C)_{AB} \xi_\alpha, \quad [\xi_\alpha, \xi_A] = 0, \quad [\xi_\alpha, \xi_\beta] = 0, \quad (1)$$

where  $\gamma^\alpha$  are the gamma matrices in  $d=11$ ,  $C$  is the charge conjugation matrix,  $\alpha = 0, \dots, 10$  and  $A = 1, \dots, 32$ . The coordinates on  $G$  are denoted by  $X^\alpha$  and by the components  $\theta^A$  of a Majorana spinor  $\theta = (\theta^A)$ , whose conjugate is  $\bar{\theta} = \theta^\top C$ . The one-forms

$$\Pi^\Delta = \{\Pi^\alpha, \Pi^A\} = \{dX^\alpha - i\bar{\theta}\gamma^\alpha\theta, d\theta^A\} \quad (2)$$

form a basis of (left-invariant) one-forms on  $G$  [5, 7]. On the superalgebra  $\mathfrak{g} = \text{Lie } G$  we introduce the scalar product  $\langle \cdot \rangle$  such that

$$\langle \xi_\alpha \xi_\beta \rangle = \eta_{\alpha\beta}, \quad \langle \xi_\alpha \xi_A \rangle = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \langle \xi_A \xi_B \rangle = 0, \quad (3)$$

where  $(\eta_{\alpha\beta}) = \text{diag}(-1, 1, \dots, 1)$  is the Lorentzian metric on  $\mathbb{R}^{10,1}$ .

**3. Action functional.** Let us consider the gauge potential  $\mathcal{A} = \mathcal{A}_\mu dx^\mu$  with values in  $\mathfrak{g}$  and the  $\mathfrak{g}$ -valued gauge field

$$\mathcal{F} = \frac{1}{2} \mathcal{F}_{\mu\nu} dx^\mu \wedge dx^\nu \quad \text{with} \quad \mathcal{F}_{\mu\nu} = \partial_\mu \mathcal{A}_\nu - \partial_\nu \mathcal{A}_\mu + [\mathcal{A}_\mu, \mathcal{A}_\nu], \quad (4)$$

where  $[\cdot, \cdot]$  is the commutator or anti-commutator depending on the Grassmann parity of its arguments. On  $\Sigma_3 \times S^1$  we have the obvious splitting

$$ds^2 = g_{\mu\nu} dx^\mu dx^\nu = g_{ab} dx^a dx^b + (dx^3)^2, \quad (5)$$

$$\mathcal{A} = \mathcal{A}_\mu dx^\mu = \mathcal{A}_a dx^a + \mathcal{A}_3 dx^3, \quad (6)$$

$$\mathcal{F} = \frac{1}{2} \mathcal{F}_{\mu\nu} dx^\mu \wedge dx^\nu = \frac{1}{2} \mathcal{F}_{ab} dx^a \wedge dx^b + \mathcal{F}_{a3} dx^a \wedge dx^3. \quad (7)$$

On  $M^4 = \Sigma_3 \times S^1$ , with its boundary  $\partial M^4 = \partial\Sigma_3 \times S^1 = \Sigma_2 \times S^1$ , the (super)group of gauge transformations is naturally defined as (see e.g. [21, 22])

$$\mathcal{G} = \{g : M^4 \rightarrow G \mid g|_{\partial M^4} = \text{Id}\}. \quad (8)$$

This corresponds to a framing of the gauge bundle over the boundary. For closed membranes we keep the framing over  $S^1$ .

Employing the adiabatic approach [10, 11, 15, 16, 22, 23], we deform the metric (5),

$$ds_\varepsilon^2 = g_{\mu\nu}^\varepsilon dx^\mu dx^\nu = g_{ab} dx^a dx^b + \varepsilon^2 (dx^3)^2, \quad (9)$$

where  $\varepsilon \in [0, \infty)$  is a real parameter. This is equivalent to scaling the radius of our circle, replacing it with  $S_\varepsilon^1$  of radius  $\varepsilon$ . Indices are raised by  $g_\varepsilon^{\mu\nu}$ , and we have

$$\mathcal{F}_\varepsilon^{ab} = g_\varepsilon^{ac} g_\varepsilon^{bd} \mathcal{F}_{cd} = \mathcal{F}^{ab} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{F}_\varepsilon^{a3} = g_\varepsilon^{ac} g_\varepsilon^{33} \mathcal{F}_{c3} = \varepsilon^{-2} \mathcal{F}^{a3}, \quad (10)$$

where indices in  $\mathcal{F}^{\mu\nu}$  have been raised by the non-deformed metric tensor components  $g^{\mu\nu}$ . In addition we have  $\det(g_\varepsilon^{\mu\nu}) = \varepsilon \det(g^{\mu\nu})$ .

We consider the Yang-Mills action functional with a cosmological constant  $\Lambda$  of the form

$$S_\varepsilon = \int_{M^4} d^4x \sqrt{|\det g_{\Sigma_3}|} \left\{ \frac{\varepsilon^2}{2} \langle \mathcal{F}_{ab} \mathcal{F}^{ab} \rangle + \langle \mathcal{F}_{a3} \mathcal{F}^{a3} \rangle + \Lambda \right\}. \quad (11)$$

For  $\varepsilon = 1$  and  $\Lambda = 0$  it coincides with the standard Yang-Mills action. The value of  $\Lambda$  will be fixed later.

**4. Euler-Lagrange equations.** For the deformed metric the Yang-Mills equations take the form

$$\varepsilon^2 D_a \mathcal{F}^{ab} + D_3 \mathcal{F}^{3b} = 0 \quad (12)$$

$$\text{and} \quad D_a \mathcal{F}^{a3} = 0. \quad (13)$$

Allowing also the metric  $g_{\Sigma_3}$  on  $\Sigma_3$  to vary, its Euler-Lagrange equations give the energy-momentum constraint

$$T_{ab}^\varepsilon = \varepsilon^2 (g^{cd} \langle \mathcal{F}_{ac} \mathcal{F}_{bd} \rangle - \frac{1}{4} g_{ab} \langle \mathcal{F}_{cd} \mathcal{F}^{cd} \rangle) + \langle \mathcal{F}_{a3} \mathcal{F}_{b3} \rangle - \frac{1}{2} g_{ab} (\langle \mathcal{F}_{c3} \mathcal{F}^{c3} \rangle + \Lambda) = 0. \quad (14)$$

In the adiabatic limit  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ , our equations (12)-(14) become

$$D_3 \mathcal{F}^{3b} \equiv \partial_3 \mathcal{F}^{3b} + [\mathcal{A}_3, \mathcal{F}^{3b}] = 0, \quad (15)$$

$$D_a \mathcal{F}^{a3} \equiv \sqrt{|\det g_{\Sigma_3}|}^{-1} \partial_a (\sqrt{|\det g_{\Sigma_3}|} g^{ab} \mathcal{F}_{b3}) + [\mathcal{A}_a, \mathcal{F}^{a3}] = 0, \quad (16)$$

$$T_{ab}^0 \equiv \langle \mathcal{F}_{a3} \mathcal{F}_{b3} \rangle - \frac{1}{2} g_{ab} (\langle \mathcal{F}_{c3} \mathcal{F}^{c3} \rangle + \Lambda) = 0. \quad (17)$$

**5. Moduli space.** Let us recall how one considers the reduction of Yang-Mills theory from  $\mathbb{R}^3 \times S_\varepsilon^1$  to  $\mathbb{R}^3$  while  $S_\varepsilon^1$  shrinks to a point for an ordinary compact Lie group  $G$  [13, 14].<sup>5</sup> Firstly, one keeps in the lagrangian (11) only the zero modes  $\mathcal{A}_3^0$  in the Fourier expansion on  $S_\varepsilon^1$ , which are nothing but the Wilson lines, whose moduli are parametrized by coordinates  $\phi^\alpha$  of the maximal torus in  $G$ . These moduli produce a term  $\mathcal{F}_{a3} \mathcal{F}^{a3} = \delta_{\alpha\beta} \partial_a \phi^\alpha \partial^a \phi^\beta$  in the lagrangian. Secondly, for  $\mathcal{F}_{ab}$  smoothly depending on  $\varepsilon$ , the first term in the lagrangian (11) vanishes. However, it was observed [13, 14] that for Dirac monopoles the components  $\mathcal{F}_{ab}$  are related with the magnetic photon, having only one component  $\tilde{\mathcal{A}}_3^0$  along  $S_\varepsilon^1$ , via

$$\varepsilon_{abc} \mathcal{F}^{bc} = \varepsilon^{-1} \partial_a \tilde{\mathcal{A}}_3^0, \quad (18)$$

where the  $\varepsilon^{-1}$  appears from the metric dependence of the Hodge star operator. These monopole configurations correspond to 't Hooft lines around the circle  $S_\varepsilon^1$ . They survive in the limit  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ ,

---

<sup>5</sup>For simplicity, we restrict ourselves to the pure Yang-Mills subsector of the supersymmetric theories in [13, 14].

yielding in the lagrangian (11) an additional term proportional to  $\delta_{\alpha\beta} \partial_a \psi^\alpha \partial^a \psi^\beta$ , where  $\psi^\alpha$  are coordinates on the Cartan torus in the dual group  $G^\vee$ .

In our case the situation is different since our supermembrane moves in a noncompact superspace, namely  $G = \text{SUSY}(N=1)/\text{SO}(10,1)$ . For any fixed  $x^a \in \Sigma_3$ , a generic framed  $\mathcal{A}_3$  is parametrized by the moduli space

$$\Omega G = \text{Map}(S_\varepsilon^1, G)/G = LG/G, \quad (19)$$

i.e. the based loop group, and it can be written in the form

$$\mathcal{A}_3 = \hat{h}^{-1} \partial_3 \hat{h} = h^{-1} \mathcal{A}_3^0 h + h^{-1} \partial_3 h \quad \text{with} \quad \hat{h} = h_0 h \in \Omega G \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{A}_3^0 = h_0^{-1} \partial_3 h_0 \in \mathfrak{g}, \quad (20)$$

where  $h \in \Omega G$  and  $h_0 \in G \subset \Omega G$ . Note that neither  $\hat{h}$  nor  $h$  belong to the gauge group. In fact, (20) defines a map  $\hat{h} \mapsto h_0$  from  $\Omega G$  to  $G$ . The Wilson lines  $\mathcal{A}_3^0$  are parametrized by  $G$ . Since our aim is the supermembrane moving in  $G$ , we choose the magnetic photon component  $\tilde{\mathcal{A}}_3^0$  to vanish. Furthermore, in the spirit of the adiabatic approach it is assumed that all moduli of  $\mathcal{A}_3$  are functions of  $x^a \in \Sigma_3$ , i.e. both functions  $h$  and  $h_0$  depend on  $x^a$  via their moduli. We denote by  $\mathcal{N}$  the space of all  $\mathcal{A}_3$  given by (20), and we define the projection  $\pi : \mathcal{N} \rightarrow G$  since we want to keep only  $\mathcal{A}_3^0$  in the limit  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ .

**6. Effective action.** The variable  $\mathcal{A}_3^0$ , as introduced in (20), depends on  $x^a \in \Sigma_3$  only via the moduli parameters  $(X^\alpha, \theta^A) \in G$ . Then the moduli of  $\mathcal{A}_3^0$  define a map

$$(X, \theta) : \Sigma_3 \rightarrow G \quad \text{with} \quad (X(x^a), \theta(x^a)) = (X^\alpha(x^a), \theta^A(x^a)). \quad (21)$$

The map (21) is not arbitrary, it is constrained by the equations (15)-(17). The derivative  $\partial_a \mathcal{A}_3$  belongs to the tangent space  $T_{\mathcal{A}_3} \mathcal{N}$ . With the help of the projection  $\pi : \mathcal{N} \rightarrow G$  with fibres  $Q$ , one can decompose  $\partial_a \mathcal{A}_3$  into two parts,

$$T_{\mathcal{A}_3} \mathcal{N} = \pi^* T_{\mathcal{A}_3^0} G \oplus T_{\mathcal{A}_3} Q \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \partial_a \mathcal{A}_3 = \Pi_a^\Delta \xi_{\Delta 3} + D_3 \epsilon_a, \quad (22)$$

where  $\Delta = (\alpha, A)$  and

$$\Pi_a^\alpha = \partial_a X^\alpha - i \bar{\theta} \gamma^\alpha \partial_a \theta \quad \text{and} \quad \Pi_a^A = \partial_a \theta^A. \quad (23)$$

In (22),  $\epsilon_a$  are  $\mathfrak{g}$ -valued parameters ( $D_3 \epsilon_a \in T_{\mathcal{A}_3} Q$ ), and the vector fields  $\xi_{\Delta 3}$  on  $G$  can be identified with the generators  $\xi_\Delta = (\xi_\alpha, \xi_A)$  of  $G$ .

On  $\xi_{\Delta 3}$  we impose the gauge-fixing condition

$$D_3 \xi_{\Delta 3} = 0 \quad \xrightarrow{(22)} \quad D_3 D_3 \epsilon_a = D_3 \partial_a \mathcal{A}_3. \quad (24)$$

Recall that  $\mathcal{A}_3$  is determined by (20) and  $\mathcal{A}_a$  are yet free. In the adiabatic approach one can naturally choose  $\mathcal{A}_a = \epsilon_a$  (cf. [15, 23]), where  $\epsilon_a$  are defined from (24). Then one obtains

$$\mathcal{F}_{a3} = \partial_a \mathcal{A}_3 - D_3 \mathcal{A}_a = \partial_a \mathcal{A}_3 - D_3 \epsilon_a = \Pi_a^\Delta \xi_{\Delta 3} \in T_{\mathcal{A}_3^0} G. \quad (25)$$

Substituting (25) into (15), we see that the latter is resolved due to (24). Plugging (25) into the action (11) with  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$  and fixing  $\Lambda = -1$ , we obtain the effective action

$$S_0 = 2\pi \int_{\Sigma_3} d^3x \sqrt{|\det g_{\Sigma_3}|} \left( g^{ab} \Pi_a^\alpha \Pi_b^\beta \eta_{\alpha\beta} - 1 \right). \quad (26)$$

It coincides with the kinetic part of the supermembrane action [5]. One may also show (cf. [19]) that the equations (16) are equivalent to the Euler-Lagrange equations for  $(X^\alpha, \theta^A)$  following from (26). Finally, substituting (25) into (17), we arrive at

$$\Pi_a^\alpha \Pi_b^\beta \eta_{\alpha\beta} - \frac{1}{2} g_{ab} (g^{cd} \Pi_c^\alpha \Pi_d^\beta \eta_{\alpha\beta} - 1) = 0 \quad (27)$$

which may also be obtained from (26) by varying the metric.

From (27) it follows that

$$g_{ab} = \eta_{\alpha\beta} \Pi_a^\alpha \Pi_b^\beta, \quad (28)$$

and, after putting this back into (26), we get the standard Nambu-Goto lagrangian for the supermembrane. It is obvious that for  $\theta = 0$  the bosonic membrane action remains.

**7. Wess-Zumino-type term.** The action (26) is not the full supermembrane action, since the latter needs also a Wess-Zumino-type term [5, 7]. Continuing our ‘reverse engineering’ strategy, we look for an addition to the Yang-Mills action (11) which in the infrared limit  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$  will give us this Wess-Zumino-type term. This addition can be incorporated as follows. We extend  $\Sigma_3$  to a Lorentzian 4-manifold  $\Sigma_4$  with boundary  $\Sigma_3 = \partial\Sigma_4$  and (local) coordinates  $x^{\hat{a}}$ ,  $\hat{a} = 0, 1, 2, 4$ . On  $\Sigma_4$  one introduces the four-form [5, 7]

$$\Omega_4 = \langle \Pi \wedge \Pi \wedge \Pi \wedge \Pi \rangle = f_{\Delta\Lambda\Sigma\Gamma} \Pi^\Delta \wedge \Pi^\Lambda \wedge \Pi^\Sigma \wedge \Pi^\Gamma = \hat{d}\bar{\theta} \gamma_{[\alpha} \gamma_{\beta]} \wedge \hat{d}\theta \wedge \Pi^\alpha \wedge \Pi^\beta = \hat{d}\Omega_3 \quad (29)$$

for  $\Pi := \Pi_{\hat{a}} dx^{\hat{a}} = \Pi_{\hat{a}}^\Delta dx^{\hat{a}} \xi_{\Delta}$ , where  $\hat{d} = dx^{\hat{a}} \partial_{\hat{a}}$ . The explicit form of the constants  $f_{\Delta\Lambda\Sigma\Gamma}$  and the three-form  $\Omega_3$  can be found in [5, 7]. Then one adds to the action (26) the term

$$S_{WZ} = \int_{\Sigma_4} \Omega_4 = \int_{\Sigma_3} \Omega_3, \quad (30)$$

which completes the M2-brane action. In the set-up we investigate here, we take the direct product manifold  $\Sigma_4 \times S^1$ , extend the index  $a$  in (23) to  $\hat{a} = 0, 1, 2, 4$  and introduce one-forms on  $\Sigma_4$ ,

$$F_3 := \mathcal{F}_{\hat{a}3} dx^{\hat{a}}. \quad (31)$$

Adding (with a proper coefficient) the Wess-Zumino-type term

$$S_{WZ}^{YM} = \int_{\Sigma_4 \times S^1} f_{\Delta\Lambda\Sigma\Gamma} F_3^\Delta \wedge F_3^\Lambda \wedge F_3^\Sigma \wedge F_3^\Gamma \wedge dx^3 \quad (32)$$

to the action functional  $S_\varepsilon$  from (11) with  $\Lambda = -1$ , we obtain the gauge-field action which in the adiabatic limit  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$  becomes the M2-brane action. This implies that features of Yang-Mills theory with the action (11)+(32) for  $\varepsilon \neq 0$  can be reduced to properties of supermembranes by taking the limit  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ .

## Acknowledgements

This work was partially supported by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft grant LE 838/13.

## References

- [1] P.A.M. Dirac, “An extensible model of the electron,” *Proc. Roy. Soc. Lond. A* **268** (1962) 57.
- [2] P.S. Howe and R.W. Tucker, “A locally supersymmetric and reparametrization invariant action for a spinning membrane,” *J. Phys. A* **10** (1977) L155.
- [3] J. Hoppe, “Quantum theory of a massless relativistic surface and a two-dimensional bound state problem,” PhD thesis, MIT, Cambridge, MA, USA, 1982.
- [4] J. Hughes, J. Liu and J. Polchinski, “Supermembranes,” *Phys. Lett. B* **180** (1986) 370.
- [5] E. Bergshoeff, E. Sezgin and P.K. Townsend,  
“Supermembranes and eleven-dimensional supergravity,” *Phys. Lett. B* **189** (1987) 75.
- [6] B. de Wit, J. Hoppe and H. Nicolai, “On the quantum mechanics of supermembranes,” *Nucl. Phys. B* **305** (1988) 545.
- [7] J.A. de Azcarraga and P.K. Townsend, “Superspace geometry and classification of supersymmetric extended objects,” *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **62** (1989) 2579.
- [8] J. Hoppe, “Relativistic membranes,” *J. Phys. A* **46** (2013) 023001.
- [9] J. Bagger, N. Lambert, S. Mukhi and C. Papageorgakis, “Multiple membranes in M-theory,” *Phys. Rept.* **527** (2013) 1 [arXiv:1203.3546 [hep-th]].
- [10] S. Dostoglou and D.A. Salamon, “Self-dual instantons and holomorphic curves,” *Ann. Math.* **139** (1994) 581.
- [11] S.K. Donaldson and R.P. Thomas, “Gauge theory in higher dimensions,”  
in: *The Geometric Universe*, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 1998.
- [12] J.A. Harvey, G.W. Moore and A. Strominger, “Reducing S-duality to T-duality,” *Phys. Rev. D* **52** (1995) 7161 [hep-th/9501022].
- [13] N. Seiberg and E. Witten, “Gauge dynamics and compactification to three-dimensions,”  
in *\*Saclay 1996, The mathematical beauty of physics\** 333-366 [hep-th/9607163].
- [14] N. Seiberg, “Notes on theories with 16 supercharges,”  
*Nucl. Phys. Proc. Suppl.* **67** (1998) 158 [hep-th/9705117].
- [15] N.S. Manton, “A remark on the scattering of BPS monopoles,” *Phys. Lett. B* **110** (1982) 54.
- [16] D. Stuart, “The geodesic approximation for the Yang-Mills-Higgs equations,” *Commun. Math. Phys.* **166** (1994) 149.
- [17] G. Tian, “Gauge theory and calibrated geometry,”  
*Ann. Math.* **151** (2000) 193 [math/0010015 [math-dg]].
- [18] A. Deser, O. Lechtenfeld and A.D. Popov, “Sigma-model limit of Yang-Mills instantons in higher dimensions,” *Nucl. Phys. B* **894** (2015) 361 [arXiv:1412.4258 [hep-th]].
- [19] A.D. Popov, “String theories as the adiabatic limit of Yang-Mills theory,” *Phys. Rev. D* **92** (2015) 045003 [arXiv:1505.07733 [hep-th]].
- [20] A.D. Popov, “Green-Schwarz superstring as subsector of Yang-Mills theory,”  
arXiv:1506.02175 [hep-th].
- [21] S.K. Donaldson, “Boundary value problems for Yang-Mills fields,” *J. Geom. Phys.* **8** (1992) 89.
- [22] D.A. Salamon, “Notes on flat connections and the loop group,”  
Preprint, University of Warwick, 1998.
- [23] E.J. Weinberg and P. Yi, “Magnetic monopole dynamics, supersymmetry, and duality,” *Phys. Rept.* **438** (2007) 65 [hep-th/0609055].